

product, the method including the steps of:

producing signals representing a packing list for an order of the product with the order center apparatus, located at an order center, the order center apparatus including a computer having a programmed processor;

assigning waybill shipping information signals to the order with a shipping apparatus including a digital computer;

linking, by digital communication, the signals representing the packing list with the waybill shipping information signals;

receiving the signals representing the packing list at a printer device at a distribution center located separately from the order center;

printing the packing list at the printer device; and

shipping the product specified by the packing list, in accordance with the waybill shipping information signals, from the distribution center.

2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

receiving a customized component at the order center apparatus, from an ordering system including a computer; and wherein:

the step of linking includes linking the signals representing the packing list with the signals representing the customized component;

the step of receiving includes receiving the signals representing the customized component at the printer device;

the step of printing includes printing the customized component, along with the packing list and a shipping label, at the printing device; and

the step of shipping is carried out by shipping the customized component, along with the product, from the distribution center.



3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of producing signals representing a packing list and said step of printing the packing list are carried out by using flowers as the product.

5. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of printing includes printing on a sheet in the printer device; and further including the step of: locating demarcations on the sheet for detaching a shipping label from the packing list at the demarcations.

6. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, further including the step of locating a perforation on the sheet for detaching a shipping label from the packing list at the perforation.

7. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, further including the steps of: receiving a message at the order center apparatus, from an ordering system including a computer, said message from a user of the ordering to a recipient of the flowers; and wherein:

the step of linking includes linking the signals representing packing list with the signals representing the message; and

the step of printing includes printing the message, along with the packing list and a shipping label, at the printing device at the distribution center; and

the step of shipping is carried out by shipping the message, along with the product, from the distribution center.

8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of printing includes printing the message at the printing device on a greeting card having preprinted artwork.

*S/FL* > 9. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of printing is carried out with the sheet including a greeting card having preprinted artwork and demarcations for detaching the greeting card; and wherein the step of shipping includes separating the packaging list and the greeting card by tearing the sheet at the demarcations.

*D/JL* 10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of assigning the waybill shipping information signals includes dynamically assigning the shipping information signals through a TCP/IP connection.

11. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, further including the step of: translating some of the signals, at the order center apparatus, to produce the signals representing the packing list and the shipping list signals in one digital format.

12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of printing is carried out with the printing device being a fax machine; and further including the step of connecting the fax machine to a communications system for the receiving of the signals representing the packing list and for receiving the shipping information signals.

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e2* 13. (Once Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of connecting includes transmitting via an open end network gateway to a remote fax server for a subsequent communication to the fax machine.

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14. (Once Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of connecting includes transmitting to a remote fax server with a fax modem in a local calling area of the distribution center for a subsequent communication to the fax machine.

15. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, further including the steps of: associating an order code signals with each said order at the order center apparatus; obtaining shipping status information signals from the shipping apparatus; and combining the order code signals with the status information signals at a machine-readable site having a network gateway address for access by an ordering system, including a computer, to determine an order code shipping status.

16. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of shipping includes shipping this product in packaging displaying a network gateway address to facilitate an electronic communication from an ordering system, including a computer, to the order center apparatus.

17. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of producing includes:

connecting an ordering system, including a computer, to a network gateway; and connecting the network gateway to the order center apparatus.

18. (Once Amended) The method of claim 3, further including the step of wherein the step of providing includes receiving acoustic ordering information at